

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., said today that while the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (H.R. 2764) which is awaiting President Bush's signature includes several programs for the Second Congressional District of Illinois, it also contains significant funds for international programs. The U.S. Senate's amended version of the Fiscal Year 2008 omnibus measure passed the U.S. House of Representatives moments ago by a vote of 272 to 142.

"No matter what needs we have here at home," Jackson said, "Americans have a long history of generosity to those in need wherever they may be. I am humbled by the opportunity to share our blessings with those around the world that struggle to live with HIV/AIDS, unsafe water and the ravages war."

Jackson's leadership as vice-chair of the House Appropriations Committee's State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee led to funding for several worthwhile programs, including:

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria:

Global Health and Child Survival:

Sudan:

Liberia:

Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water:

Refugee Assistance

Disaster Assistance:

Dues for U.N. Peacekeeping Missions:

Targeted Peacekeeping Operations:

\$261 million for targeted missions that are of particular interest to the United States. Within the amount provided approximately \$50 million is included for critical support of security reforms in Liberia. \$1.7 billion for Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA). These funds include at least \$550 million to support the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur as well as peacekeeping operations throughout the world, including operations in Liberia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Haiti, Timor-Leste, the Middle East, and Kosovo.

\$430 million to avert famines and provide life-saving assistance during natural disasters, and for internally displaced people in Iraq and elsewhere around the world.

: \$1 million to help displaced people around the world with food, water, shelter and other basic needs. This includes assistance for Iraqi refugees.

\$298 million for safe water programs, to help high priority countries address their water issues, including: help providing sources for safe drinking water (such as pumps and wells); building water systems; and support for safe hygiene programs.

\$115.6 million for security reforms, education and health care programs (including solutions for former combatants, internally displaced persons and training of health professionals), plus infrastructure projects such as roads and electricity.

\$1 billion, of this amount \$209 million is for critical humanitarian and peacekeeping programs in Darfur and approximately \$550 million supports the UN Mission in Darfur.

\$1.8 billion (includes \$347 million of HIV/AIDS funding). This funding includes a nearly \$100 million increase for maternal and child health programs, \$101 million more for malaria, and \$72 million more for tuberculosis.

\$546 million for the Global Fund to provide grants to countries for AIDS, TB and Malaria prevention, treatment and care programs. Added to the \$295 million in the Labor, Health and Education Appropriations bill, the overall contribution to the Global Fund would be \$841 million.